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National Intelligence BulletinMay 5, 1975

VIETNAM

Over the weekend the communists announced the formation of an 11-man "military management committee," headed by Viet Cong General Tran Van Tra, to oversee the occupation of Saigon. The committee reportedly met yesterday with a number of senior officials of the former government, including Duong Van Minh, Nguyen Van Huyen, Vu Van Mau, and others, all of whom were "allowed to return freely to their families."

The communists made a number of other moves intended to restore normalcy to Saigon. They included:

--a call for all Saigon municipal employees to return to work--1,500 had reportedly done so on May 1;

--the publication yesterday of the first edition of the new newspaper Saigon Liberated Daily;

--announcement of the first Viet Cong flights into Tan Son Nhut;

--resumption of programs on Saigon television;

--announcement of "registration" procedures for former government military personnel.

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CAMBODIA

The more than 300 foreigners deported from Cambodia over the weekend will have harsh words for their former captors but will not publicize their experiences until the remaining deportees reach safety. It may be over a week before the deportation to Thailand is completed.

The three Americans among those arriving in the first group told US officials that the three-day journey in open trucks was extremely difficult and claim that at least one person died en route. They also told of "ugly incidents" during the journey resulting from the refusal of seven Soviet personnel in the group to share provisions.

Some international repercussions may well be in store for the new authorities in Phnom Penh for their handling of the deportations. The communists' failure to grant the French permission to evacuate personnel by air has angered Paris.

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Moscow has protested the rough treatment of Soviet personnel during the initial occupation of the capital and must be upset over their humiliating expulsion.

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xenophobia on the part of the new Cambodian leadership in the two weeks since Phnom Penh's surrender. This behavior is sure to provide grist for the mills of the 26 journalists among those originally confined in the French embassy compound. The more internationally attuned Prince Sihanouk--who attended funeral ceremonies for his mother in Peking yesterday and who may return to Cambodia this week--is probably dismayed at the backwoods diplomacy now in evidence in Phnom Penh.

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